

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO RACHEL BRISTOL

• Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, today I wish to thank Rachel Bristol for 29 years of service to Oregon's hungry and congratulate her on her very deserving retirement. Before joining the Oregon Food Bank, Rachel graduated with honors from the University of Oregon with a degree in community development and public administration and served as a VISTA volunteer at the Oregon Food Share in 1983. Her devotion to feeding the hungry soon led her to the job of Acting Executive Director at the OFS. In 1988, she was a key player in the merger with Interagency Food Bank to form the Oregon Food Bank. Just 2 years later, Bristol was named the executive director & CEO of the OFB.

Rachel's legacy at the Oregon Food Bank is well-known and widespread. Under her leadership, the food bank expanded from a 10,000 square foot site to 4 facilities totaling more than 155,000 square feet. Rachel's devotion to improving the lives of hundreds of thousands of hungry children has garnered recognition from the University of Portland, the Paul G. Allen Foundation, Feeding America, and the Portland Business Journal, and thanks from the families whose lives have changed because of her hard work and dedication.

I will be sad to see Rachel Bristol go, but thank her for her 29 years of service.●

TRIBUTE TO MIKE KLUSE

• Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today I congratulate one of my constituents, Mike Kluse, on being recognized as the 2012 Laboratory Director of the Year by the Federal Laboratory Consortium, FLC. Mike is the Director of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, PNNL, located in Richland, WA.

This award is a true honor and testament to Mike's leadership and efforts at PNNL. For the past 5 years he has guided the laboratory to many accolades. The laboratory has filed more than 1,000 invention disclosures, received more than 200 patents, and issued nearly 150 new licenses. PNNL has also earned 16 R&D 100 awards as well as 12 FLC awards for excellence in technology transfer. PNNL has the newest and most modern physical infrastructure in the Department of Energy, DOE, system. And PNNL's overall performance has been judged by DOE and other Federal agencies it supports as outstanding under Mike's stewardship.

PNNL's research and development portfolio spans many missions of importance to our country: national security, homeland security, clean energy development, environmental remediation programs at the Hanford Site, and scientific research ranging from systems biology to supercomputing.

Under Mike's leadership, PNNL has been involved in the formation of Innovative Washington, a nonprofit organization that aims to accelerate technological innovation by bringing together universities, national labs, entrepreneurs, and others involved in technology transfer. Mike is also a frequent public advocate for the strategic alignment of research with technology transfer and strongly supported the streamlining of PNNL's technology transfer operations.

PNNL also deserves praise for the safety and excellent work environment it provides for its employees and the surrounding community. As director, Mike has sustained an exceptional record for PNNL and built upon its history to make it one of the region's strongest corporate citizens. He's also been a tireless supporter of community activities and programs. Furthermore, Mike's outstanding leadership led to DOE extending PNNL's contract in 2011.

Therefore, it is with great pride that today on behalf of the citizens of Washington State I thank Mike for all his work. With that said, we know that PNNL's great successes could not be achieved without the strong support from the PNNL family, so my thanks also extends to the extraordinary scientists, engineers, and personnel that continue to make a difference in our region and the Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO MARK HAMILL

• Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Mark Hamill, a native Montanan and a veteran of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

It is my honor to share the story of Mark's service during the first gulf war. Mark was in the Army Reserves as a helicopter crew chief. In the fall of 1990, he was assigned to a Medivac unit and deployed to Saudi Arabia.

As a helicopter crew chief, Mark was responsible for making sure the Medivac helicopters were ready to fly at a moment's notice. Two helicopters went to Bahrain and two were on standby to go north for Medivac calls.

When Mark returned to the United States, the maintenance platoon never got their medals from the U.S. Army. The pilots and medics from the helicopters did but the men and women who were responsible for the safety of the helicopters were forgotten about.

Earlier this month, in the presence of Mark's wife, parents, and friends, it was my honor to correct this oversight and finally present Mark with the medals he earned nearly 20 years ago.

I presented to Mark the Southwest Asia Service Medal with Three Bronze Stars, and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

I also had the honor of presenting to Mark the Kuwait Liberation Medal—Saudi Arabia, and the Kuwait Liberation Medal—Kuwait.

These four decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of

true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service.

These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.●

TRIBUTE TO PAUL WALBORN

• Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Paul Walborn, a veteran of Vietnam.

Paul, on behalf of all Montanans and all Americans, I stand to say "thank you" for your service to this Nation.

It is my honor to share the story of Paul Walborn's sacrifice in Vietnam, because no story of heroism should ever fall through the cracks.

Paul joined the Navy in December of 1963. He was an Electrician's Mate, based on a landing craft. From Coronado, CA, he flew to Japan. On May 5, 1965, one of Paul's first assignments was to be part of a convoy from Okinawa, Japan to Vietnam. Paul was part of the third wave that took Marine Corps artillery equipment to the Chu Lai beach. Intelligence reports were unclear whether Viet Cong forces would meet them on the beach.

From Chu Lai, Paul went to Da Nang where he unloaded Navy and Merchant Marine equipment. His boat then made several trips up the Perfume River to deliver equipment to support the war effort.

When Paul returned to America, he wanted to get back to normal life. His DD-214 form was correct but the Navy had no record of him serving in Vietnam, even though he unloaded cargo onto Vietnamese beaches.

He says there was just too much going on in 1967 for the Navy to worry about getting his paperwork processed correctly.

Earlier this month, in the presence of his family, it was my honor to finally present to Paul the National Defense Service Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal with one Bronze Star.

I also presented to Paul the Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal with the 1960 device.

These four decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism. Sacrifice. And dedication to service.

These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.●

NATIONAL MARROW DONOR PROGRAM

• Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, today I wish to speak about an important health issue that impacts the lives of many people across the country. Each year, more than 18,000 Americans are diagnosed with a serious blood disease and require a bone marrow transplant. Unfortunately, only 30 percent of those patients in need will find a suitable match within their family. Although about 5,000 patients each year receive a marrow transplant, others will pass away while awaiting a match.

Since 1987, the National Marrow Donor Program, NMDP, now publically